Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)*: May I know the name of that person?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: We have entrusted it to a merchant there. I do not remember his name.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)*: I want to know his name.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I want notice.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)*: What are the conditions under which the arrangement is made? Have not the Government entered into an agreement with that merchant? I want to know what the conditions of that agreement are.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: There are no conditions. We have fixed a price and then entered into a contract and we pay the money for the quantity supplied.

Mr. B. M. Peter *(Latin-Christian Mattancheri)*: What is the margin of profit allowed?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Of course, we allow him a margin of profit to cover expenses and other incidental charges. I think the name of the merchant is Mr. Ismail Kunhi.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)*: Is he a Cochin State man or a Travancorean?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: He is a Travancore man.

51. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of applications from agriculturists from the Talappalli Taluk received by the Assistant Supply Officer, Vadakkancheri, intending sale of tapioca to Government depots in the months of Medam and Edavam 1118;

(*b*) what is the reply given to these agriculturists;

(*c*) is the Government aware that by the control of tapioca the Government is discouraging tapioca growers from future cultivation as the price control system has become a heavy hardship on the cultivators entailing heavy losses?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(*a*) 15.

(*b*) Orders were given to them to sell their tapioca to the local retailers and fair price shops according to the requirements and also to sell to private persons in small quantities not exceeding 20 lbs.

(*c*) No.

FUEL-HIGH COST OF

52. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether in regard to the scarcity of fire-wood in Municipal areas

(*a*) any resolution had been tabled or questions asked in the last Meenam Session of the Council;

(*b*) the news-papers have brought this subject to the notice of the Government;

(*c*) the Trichur Municipal Council has passed a resolution on this subject; and

(*d*) any measures have been taken?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: (*a*) Yes, there was a resolution tabled.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Arrangements are made by the Conservator of Forests to supply fuel at a cheap rate to public of Trichur by delivery at the door of the consumer on requisition, fuel at Rs. 16 a cart-load of about 2 tons.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: In view of the resolution tabled and the subject being brought to the notice of the Government by news-papers may I know whether the Government have got any constructive suggestions?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: The suggestion was to start depots. Government thought it was not necessary in view of the fact that the Conservator is successfully taking fuel to every door and selling it at Rs. 16.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: Are the Government sure that a cart contains 2 tons?

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Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: May I know whether the Trichur Municipality has not set apart a sum of Rs. 5,000 for starting fuel depots?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: They asked for Rs. 5,000. Government thought it was not necessary to start depots by Municipalities.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)*: Will the Government be pleased to make some arrangements for the supply of fuel in Ernakulam?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: Similar arrangements are being made in Ernakulam.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: May I know what the average price of fuel per cartload of 2 tons a year back?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: I do not know. I was told it was between 25 to 30 rupees. Sometimes it was told when there was scarcity they were selling for Rs. 50 to Rs. 60.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: What was the price prior to that? Was it not 2½ rupees or three rupees per cart load?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: The price of fuel in pre-war days was Rs. 10 to 15 per cartload.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: May I know whether there is sufficient quantity available?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: There is plenty of firewood available. The only difficulty is to get carts and cartmen. It is only a question of transport.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: May I know whether similar arrangements are being made for the supply of fuel in Ernakulam?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: That is what I said just now. We are making arrangements.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ:	ഫസ്സ ഉരുപ്പികയാക്കിയതു് എന്നുമുതല്ക്കാണു്?
മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. നാരായണമേനോൻ:	ര് മാസമായി.
മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ:	അതിനുമുമ്പു് എന്തായിരുന്നു വില?
മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. നാരായണമേനോൻ:	ഫസ്സ ഉരുപ്പികയായിരുന്നു.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda)*: May I know whether you can change the system into Rs. 8 per ton? The price may be collected at the rate of Rs. 8 per ton instead of at Rs. 16 per cartload. There will be some mischief. There will be sometimes 1¼ or 1½ tons only in each cartload instead of 2 tons. Is there any objection to revise the rate in Trichur itself?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: It is sold by cwts. We have asked a number of merchants to sell fuel at 6 annas per ½ cwt. 4 depots have already been opened.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda)*: Is the present arrangement intended for rich or poor people? Is it possible for a poor man to purchase a cartload?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: Depots have been opened and the poorer people can purchase at the rate of 6 annas per ½ cwt.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: What was the necessity for refusing permission to the Municipality?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: When the Government is doing the work there is no necessity for organisation to undertake the same work.

Mr. President: Under the Municipal Act, it is not the function of the Municipality.

Mr. K. Govinda Pai *(Nominated)*: Will the Government be pleased to make some arrangements for Mattancheri.

Mr. K. T. Achyutan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: May I know for how many days or how many months will this price hold good?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: It is impossible to say that as fluctuating factors are involved.

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Mr. K. T. Achyutan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* What amount comes to the Government out of this Rs. 16?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* We get at the rate of Rs. 1—8—0 per ton or Rs. 3 per cartload.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I hope there is a sufficiency of supply.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* There is ample quantity available from the fellings in the hill-paddy areas.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Cannot the Government call for tenders to remove all the quantity on the Hill paddy areas.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* This cannot be of much help, as the difficulty is in respect of availability of labour and transport facilities.

53. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the exhorbitant rise in price of fuel in the main centres of the State;

(*b*) will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of opening depots at important centres to relieve this strain?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)* : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Arrangements have been made by the Forest Department for the supply of fuel in Trichur Town at fair prices, in cart-loads as well as in smaller quantities through private agencies. The system is found to be working successfully, and its extension to other centres is being considered.

After Questions and Answers the President left the Chair and the Deputy President presided.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

12. Forests and Tramway—Rs. 8,24,616

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 8,24,616 under XII—Forests and Tramway. It is but seldom that I am able to present the case of the Department under my charge along with its Budget, as from its usual place at the fag-end of the agenda, the motion for its grant generally gets the chance of only being put from the Chair during the last five minutes of the Session. I am grateful to the Diwan-President for making sure of my chances this time by changing the place of the Forest Budget in the agenda. I welcome this opportunity all the more as this is the last occasion when I shall have the privilege of presenting the Forest Budget before this House.

As regards the financial aspect of the budget there is very little for me to add to what has been so lucidly explained already by my friend, the Hon'ble Finance Member. In 1117, the gross receipts reached the record figure of Rs. 9·66 lakhs with a net surplus of Rs. 5·48 lakhs which was also the highest on record in the annals of the Department. According to the revised estimate of the current year a higher gross revenue of Rs. 11·21 lakhs is anticipated with a net surplus of Rs. 4·73 lakhs. For 1119, the gross receipts are expected to go still higher, namely to Rs. 12·90 lakhs, while the surplus is estimated at Rs. 4·48 lakhs. It may be explained here that the record surplus of Rs. 5·48 lakhs realised in 1117 is abnormal and disproportionately high as compared to the gross revenue, being due to the fact that over a third of the gross revenue was derived from the large number of teak trees uprooted or damaged by the Cyclone in the Plantations by the banks of the Palappilly river where collection and transport charges were very low. The slight decrease in the anticipated surplus for 1119 as compared with that of 1118 in spite of the increase in gross receipts is to be accounted for mainly by the rising costs of labour for timber-extraction.

The Department cannot, nor would it like, to claim any credit for the steep rise in revenue, realised or anticipated, during this period, due as it is to unexpected factors like the cyclone-havoc, the exigencies of the most devastating of world-wars and the ruinous price-inflation. These extraordinary and unwholesome conditions that have contributed to the inflated revenue have brought in their wake a number of complicated and difficult problems, and I am well aware that it is by the results of the efforts of the Department to tackle them that its work will be judged. I shall now endeavour to explain some of the salient features of the working of the Department.

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